

REMARKS

Claims 9-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-4 and 6-8 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Also by this Amendment, claims 9 and 11-14 are amended. Claims 9 and 12 are amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claims 11-14 are amended into independent form. These amendments are not intended to change the scope of claims 11-14, but merely to clarify the subject matter of claims 11-14. Support for these amendments can be found in claims 11-14 as originally filed. Thus, no new matter is added by these amendments.

The Office Action objects to claims 6, 9 and 12 for various informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 9 and 12 overcome the informalities in those claims, and that claim 6 has been canceled by this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests that these objections be withdrawn.

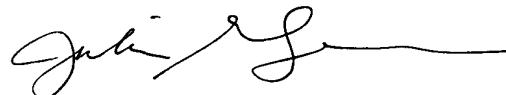
The Office Action rejects claims 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. While Applicant does not necessarily agree with this rejection, in the interest of furthering prosecution, claims 11-14 have been amended into independent form, as suggested by the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-4, 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 4,487,766 to Mach. Applicant respectfully submits that, because claims 1, 3-4, 6 and 8 have been canceled by this Amendment, this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 9-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 18, 2004

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